

Five Points to Explain why Maternal Mortality is the Canary in the Coal Mine for Women's Health

Gene Declercq, PhD
Community Health Sciences Dept.,
Boston University SPH
www.birthbythenumbers.org

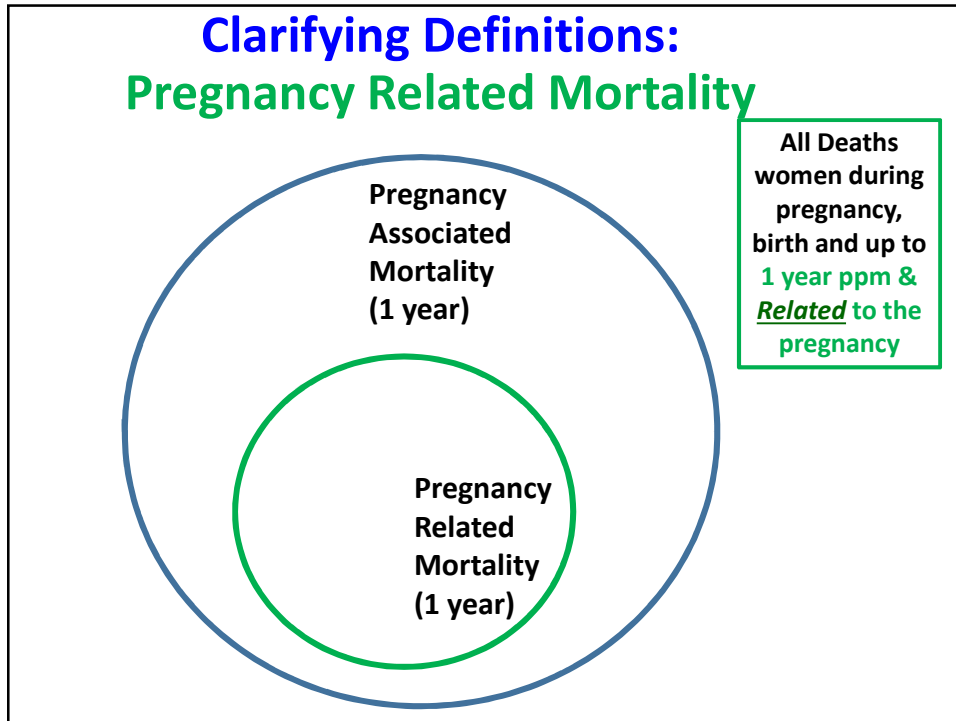
**Addressing the Drivers of Maternal Mortality
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.
June 27, 2019**

Clarifying Definitions: Pregnancy Associated Mortality

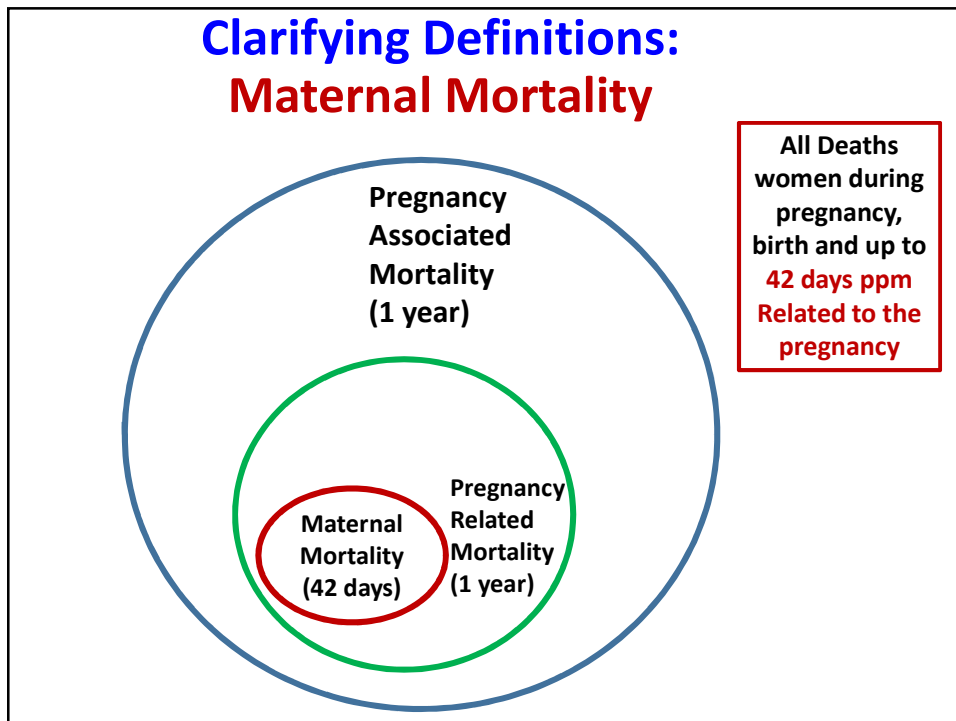
**Pregnancy
Associated
Mortality
(1 year)**

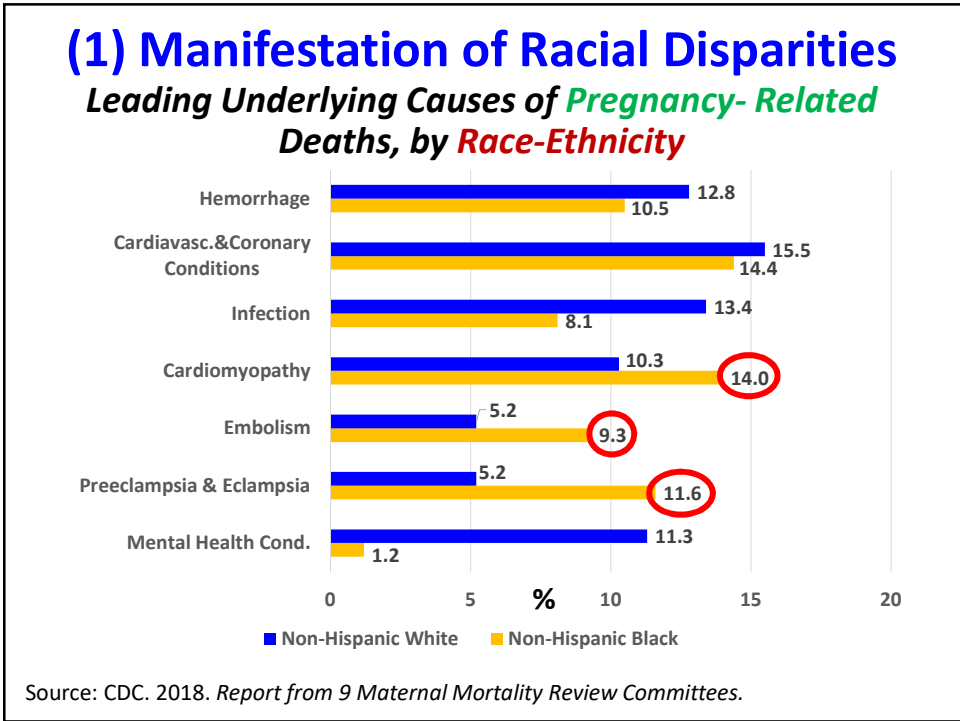
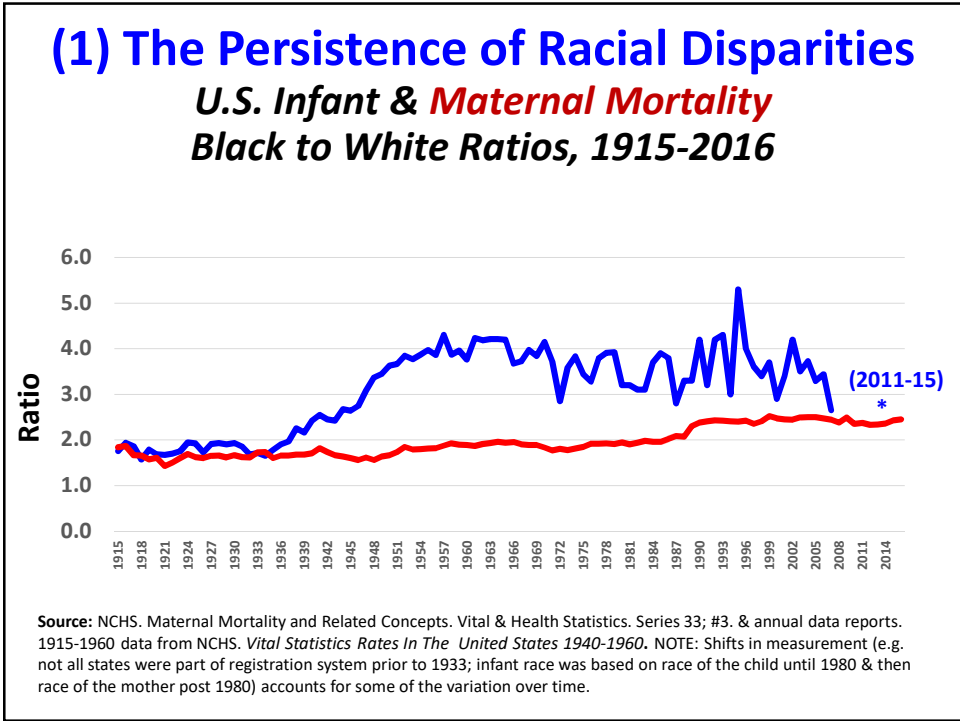
**All Deaths
women of
reproductive
age
pregnancy to
1 year ppm**

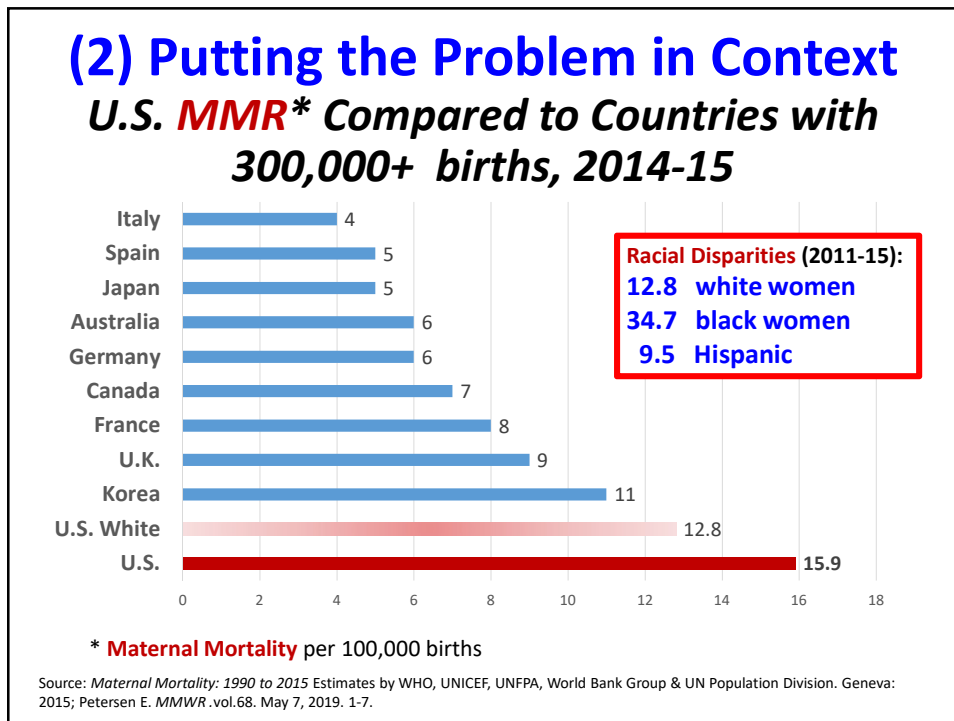
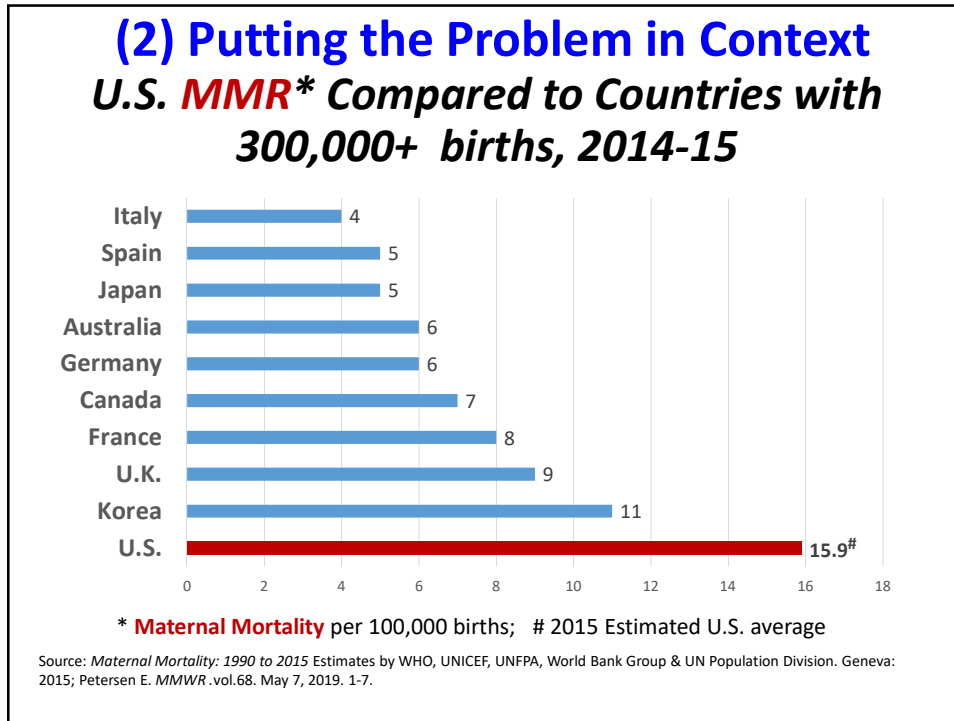
Clarifying Definitions: Pregnancy Related Mortality



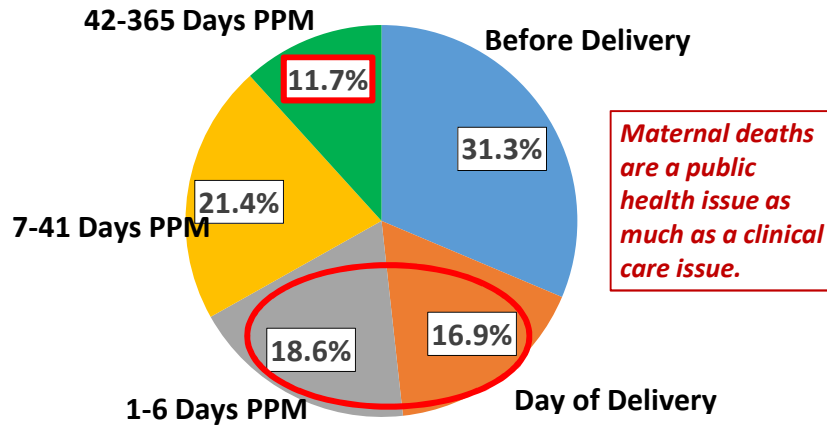
Clarifying Definitions: Maternal Mortality





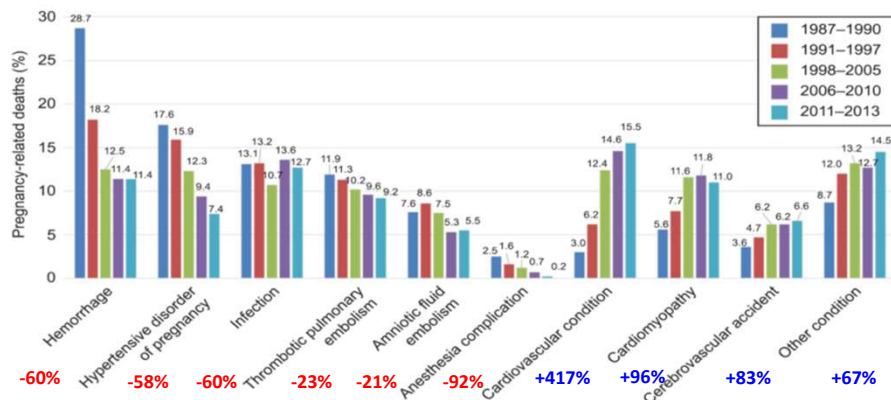


(3) Moving to a Public Health Approach Timing of *Pregnancy Related Deaths*

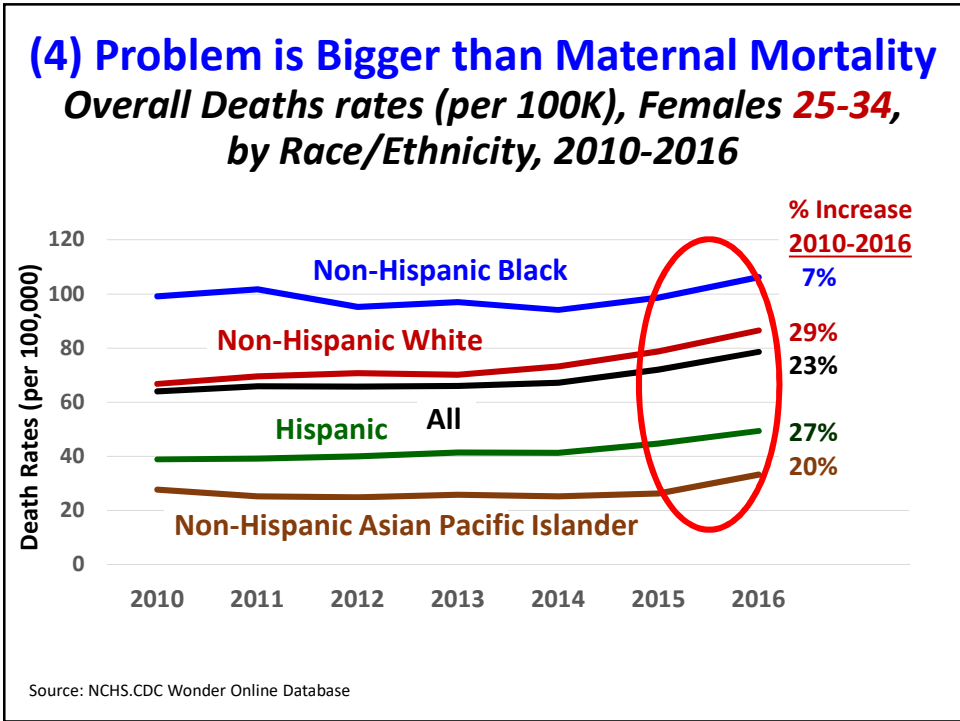
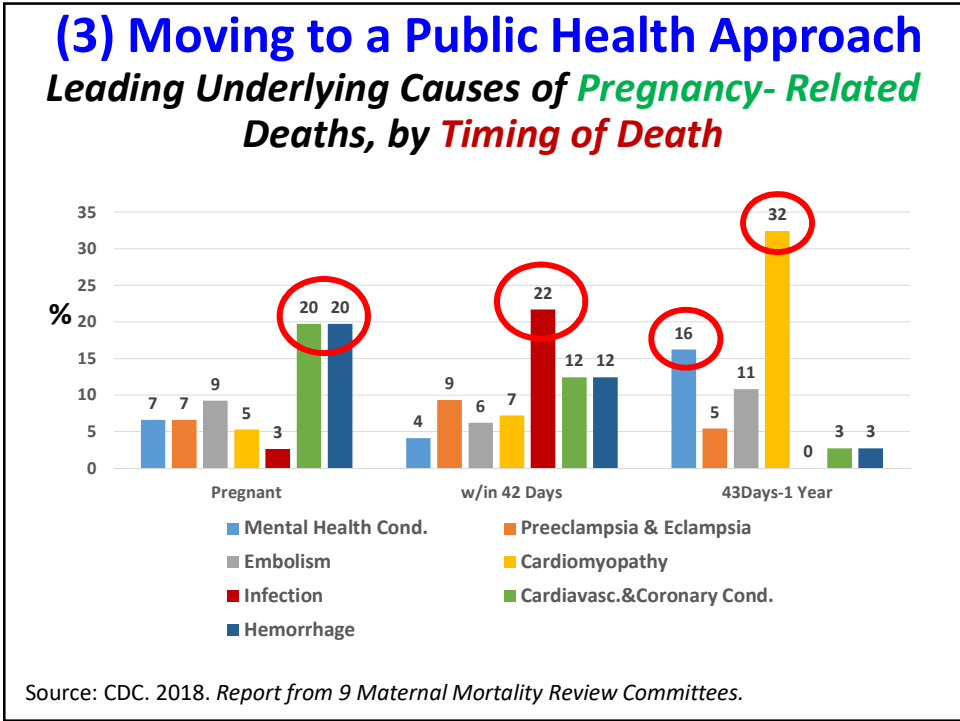


Source: Petersen E. et al. Vital Signs: Pregnancy-Related Deaths, United States, 2011–2015, and Strategies for Prevention, 13 States, 2013–2017. *MMWR*. vol.68. May 7, 2019. 1-7.

(3) Moving to a Public Health Approach Cause-specific proportionate *Pregnancy-Related mortality: United States, 1987–2013.*



Source: Creanga. Pregnancy-Related Mortality in the United States. *Obstet Gynecol* 2017.



(4) Problem is Bigger than Maternal Mortality

Top 10 Causes of Death for Women 25-34 in 2016

	Total Deaths	% of total	Rate per 100 K	% Change in rate 2010-2016
All causes	17,359	100.0	78.6	22.8%
Accidents (unintentional inj.)	6,247	36.0	28.3	53.0%
Malignant neoplasms	1,966	11.3	8.9	-1.1%
Intentional self-harm (suicide) .	1,479	8.5	6.7	26.4%
Diseases of heart	1,141	6.6	5.2	6.1%
Assault (homicide)	836	4.8	3.8	15.2%
Pregnancy, childbirth & puerperium	472	2.7	2.1	16.7%
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	360	2.1	1.6	77.8%
Diabetes mellitus	336	1.9	1.5	15.4%
Cerebrovascular diseases	244	1.4	1.1	-8.3%
Septicemia	210	1.2	1.0	NA
All other causes (residual)	4,068	23.4	18.4	12.2%

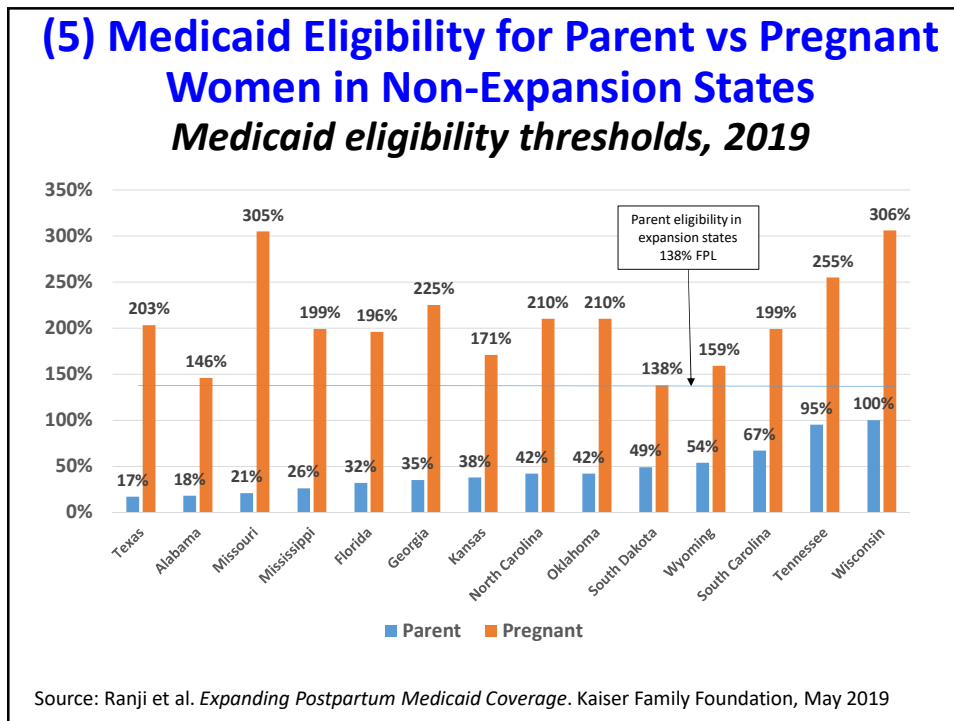
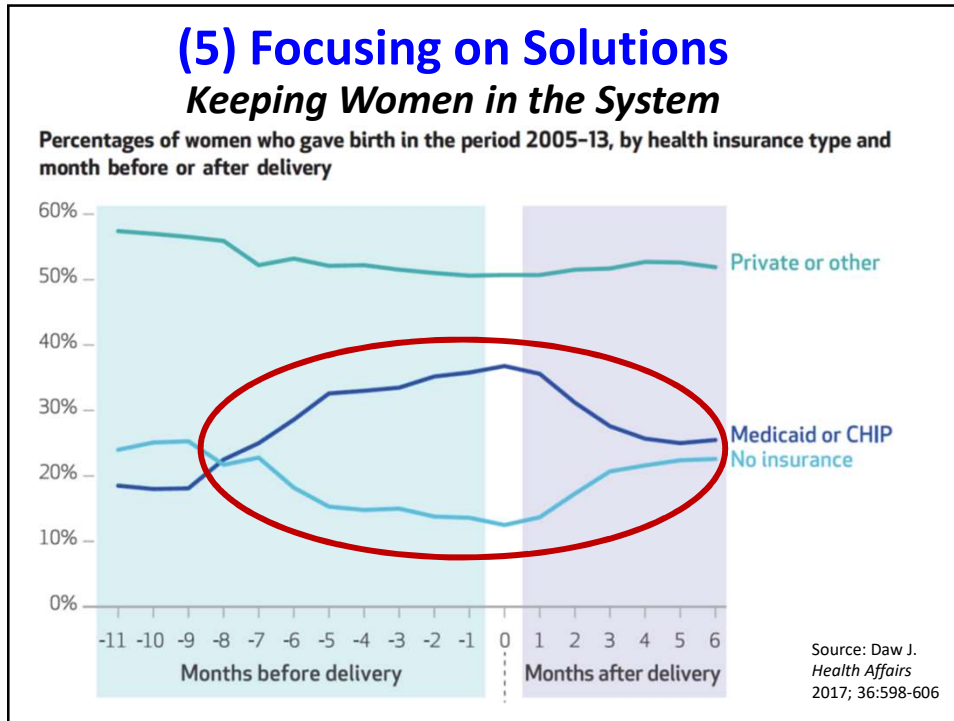
Sources: Heron M. *Deaths: Leading causes for 2010*. National vital statistics reports; vol62 no 6. Hyattsville,MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2013 & Heron M. *Deaths: Leading causes for 2016*. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 67 no 6. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2018.

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Four Policy Recommendations

1. Use Maternal Mortality Review Committees to **explore pregnancy associated deaths** for causes and possible bases for prevention;
2. Use linked datasets to examine women's health **through the lifecourse** and identify critical moments (e.g. pregnancy?) where intervention might matter;
3. Fund a systematic process for listening to women tell us about their lives and experiences **in pregnancy and beyond** to craft sustainable solutions that are meaningful to them.
4. Craft policies that keep **women of all ages** within the health and social system to prevent problems that lead to pregnancy associated deaths.

www.birthbythenumbers.org

Email: birthbynumbers@gmail.com

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